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CIRIS

11 December 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Staff Director, NIRB

SUBJECT : Coordination of NIRB/NIPE/CCPC Activities

1. Three inter-related data collection projects are now underway on behalf of NIRB and/or DCI (USIB):

(a) I understand NIRB is to be the focal point for the input of NSSM requests from the NSC Staff, and these will then be assigned to such groups as the CCPC, et. al. for writing the reports which will thereupon flow back through NIRB.

(b) NIRB is also now engaged in attempting to persuade Mr. Frohike and the DoD Program Managers, such as Admiral Gayler, to contribute to a community-wide CIRIS data base, whose principal characteristic is to be uniformity of reporting, i.e., the use of a common vocabulary to express intelligence resources, activities and targets. ✓

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3. There is now a very real danger that NIRB/NIPE/CCPC will be subject to well-deserved criticism from the Program Managers, if uncoordinated data calls are levied in support of these three activities, and if the terminology used to identify activities and to express functions and targets is non-uniform. Not only does such a situation produce data that cannot be related in a larger context to the programs of the community, but this lack of internal coordination of our own staff will not go uncommented-upon by the Director, NSA and others who seek to limit the DCI's right to program and resource data. The added effort imposed on program managers to provide data will also be pointed out.

4. The undertaking to turn out NSSM studies appears to be both sizeable and of continuing duration. Although short deadlines on some of the initial studies may necessitate that they be handled on an ad hoc basis as far as data collection is concerned, it is desirable that there be uniformity in the approach to the analysis and the manner of describing and measuring the intelligence activities and resources. Eventually, it is to be hoped that the CIRIS information base can serve as the initial source of data for the NSSMs, doing away with the necessity for ad hoc data calls.

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5. My conclusions are:

(a) These three activities should be coordinated, interrelated and made consistent with one another. This should be done now, prior to the CCPC (or any other group with NIRB assignment) going out with calls for data on the NSSM studies. This requires that the NIRB/NIPE staff, and any others who can make a substantive contribution (such as the people in charge of the CCPC efforts) should now engage in a review of our methodology and procedures -- to agree on what we want to obtain by way of specific data and the terminology in which this is to be reported, and to agree on the procedures for obtaining this information in a way that will be most tolerable to the Program Managers who must provide the data.

(b) It should be recognized that CCPC studies, the CIRIS data calls and the Facilities Inventory data calls all must track together -- we should have no cases where widely-different resource information is reported to CIRIS than is reported to the CCPC in a country study, such as has occurred in the case of Cuba, which [] has documented.

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(c) An investment at the outset in organizing ourselves and agreeing on our terminology and methodology will be time-saving in the long run as well as a means to protect us against justifiable charges from the outside of lack of internal coordination.

(d) As a part of our effort to give better definition to the component parts of our problem, we should look closely at the interrelation of the CIRIS and the Facilities Inventory. We know now that [] clandestine activities are not reported or clearly identifiable in either data base. We should address the question as to whether these two data bases should be combined, with a single data call, or whether it may be more suitable to retain two distinct data bases and two distinct data calls. In this latter event, we should consider whether certain information can be obtained better through CIRIS or through the Facilities Inventory, and whether the existing division between the two is the most effective. If we do nothing else, we should insure that the terminology used in both is synonymous -- e.g., in the listing of sensors, in the definitions of costs, etc.

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(e) The CCPC effort should be looked on as a major vehicle for the accomplishment of NIRB tasking. As such, it is important that the CCPC terminology contribute to and be consistent with a broader NIRB/NIPE effort to establish the common vocabulary for use by the CCPC and any other groups engaged in identifying and analyzing community resources, and for use in the CIRIS and the Facilities Inventory.

(f) If a more orderly means of shredding out and totalling up resources is not provided by NIRB/NIPE/CCPC for the NSC Staff, the likelihood is that the latter will attempt to do this for itself. The necessity to rewrite [] paper illustrates this problem. Furthermore, if

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the community, in the person of NLRB, does not satisfy the NSC Staff, this failure can stimulate the NSC Staff to deal directly with the Program Managers, thus diluting the DCI's role in community resource management.



A/D/DCI/NIPE

cc: Mr. Bross
General Thomas

Note: The next NLRB meeting is around 15 December. Shouldn't we sort this out by then?

